



Draft Minutes

Delaware Heritage Commission Meeting

Delaware Public Archives - Dover

October 3, 2019

Members in Attendance:

Richard Carter, Chair
Reba Hollingsworth Ph.D., Vice Chair
Thomas Brown
Michael DiPaolo
Janice Durham
MGen. Francis Ianni (Ret.)
Stephen Marz
Rosario Calvachi-Mateyko
Harvey B. Rubenstein, Esq.
Jonathan Russ Ph.D.
Bradley Skelcher Ph.D.
Sarah Williams
Sylvester Woolford
Terrence K. Wright

Support Staff:

Madeline Dunn – HCA/SHPO
Tom Summers - DPA

Guests:

Jackie Griffith – Chair – Women's Suffrage
Centennial Sub-Committee
Sarah Granda – Women's Suffrage Centennial
Sub-Committee
Margie Masino, President – Newark Historical
Society

Chairman Carter called the Delaware Heritage Commission meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday October 3, 2019 at the Delaware Public Archives.

Business Agenda

1. **Greetings** - Chairman Carter welcomed members and guests: Sarah Granda and Maggie Masino
2. **Approval of the minutes for the August 7, 2019 Meeting:** Sylvester Woolford moved that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion seconded by Michael DiPaolo was unanimously approved.
3. **Financial Report:** The financial report, prepared by Dr. Courtney Stewart - Deputy Secretary of State, was reviewed and filed for audit.
4. **Report on Investments and Reinvestment of CDs:** DHC members reviewed the report prepared by Sally Williams.
5. **Update on Women's Suffrage Centennial Sub-Committee:** Chairman Carter and Sylvester Woolford introduced new chair Jackie Griffith and new staff person – Sarah Granda. Jackie Griffith mentioned several exciting projects under consideration which included the installation of historic markers in Wilmington and each county, a monument unveiling commemorating the actions of the Delaware General Assembly, oral history interviews with DHC Vice Chair – Dr. Reba Hollingsworth and Native Americans, as well as summaries describing perspectives denoting both pros and cons. Sarah Granda mentioned the development of a website featuring a general history about suffrage, opposing viewpoints, and comments from African American and Native American women.

6. **Introduction of Marie Mayer Masino, President of the Newark Historical Society:** Ms. Masino introduced DHC members to activities undertaken by the Newark Historical Society and invited members to attend a special presentation commemorating the 51st anniversary of the passage of the Robert F. Kennedy Funeral Train through Newark on June 8, 1968. She explained that Governor Carney would be the keynote speaker at the October 23rd event along with commentaries by State Representative Paul Baumbach (23rd District), historian Mike Dixon, and herself. She also announced that this free event would be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Newark Country Club located at 300 West Main Street in Newark.

Ms. Masino asked if the Commission would be able to financially assist with the costs of refreshments. Members specified that a grant application was required. Since timing was an issue, members suggested that once an application was received it could be circulated by email and approved by a majority vote. Members suggested a maximum amount of \$1,000 with the specification that funds be utilized toward light refreshments (no alcohol) and honorariums.

7. **Update on the Civil War Filming Project:** Commission member Terry Wright mentioned that the filming was completed on 9/12/19, that editing had begun, and that the month of January had been targeted as a preview month.
8. **Discussion of Rededication of George White Historical Marker:** Stephen Marz noted that the rededication of a previously stolen sign honoring George White is set for 10/20/2019 at Greenbank Park on Pike Creek. This historic marker retells and reminds us of the injustice George White endured by being lynched by an angry mob in 1903. This story recounts information about Delaware's only documented lynching which occurred in 1903.

9. **Reports from Ex Officio members:**
Steve Marz, (DPA – State Archivist) made the following announcements:

In celebration of American Archives Month, the Delaware Public Archives will present a daily DPA Archives Fact on its social media platforms. The daily posts will highlight the history of the Delaware Public Archives and the services that are provided to the public and state agencies. American Archives Month has been celebrated each October since 2006, and provides the profession opportunities to inform the public that items that are important to them are being preserved, cataloged, cared for, and made accessible by Archivists here in the First State.

The Delaware Public Archives is one of the oldest public Archives in the nation; originating in 1905.

9. **Reports from Ex Officio members (cont.):**

Steve Marz, (DPA – State Archivist) made the following announcements:

Within the next few weeks, the Delaware Public Archives will be dedicating five Delaware Historical Markers:

October 6, 2019 @ 11:00: **Name of marker:** Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church

About the marker: Marker recognizes the Mount Pleasant UMC, which formed in 1884 after farmer Elijah Burton donated an acre of land to the trustees of the church. The church officially incorporated in 1899. The original church structure has been updated and expanded over time. In 2007, the John Wesley, St. Paul, and Mount Pleasant Churches merged to form Faith United Methodist Church, which worships at this site.

Legislative Sponsor: Speaker Pete Schwartzkopf and Senator Ernie Lopez.

October 10, 2019 @ 5:30: **Name of marker:** Kent County Theatre Guild

About the marker: Marker recognizes the Kent County Theatre Guild (KCTG), which formed in 1953 to provide community theatre opportunities in Central Delaware. The group initially performed productions at local high schools and the Hinkle Building until St. John's Lutheran Church donated a former sanctuary for a permanent theater in 1972.

Legislative Sponsors: Senator Colin Bonini and Representative Andria Bennett|

October 14, 2019 @ 11:00: **Name of marker:** Askekesky (Acksquessance)

About the marker: Marker has been developed by the Nanticoke Indian Tribe Commemorative Committee and documents the history of the Askekesky Reservation that was located near the Indian River from 1711-1743.

Legislative Sponsors: Senator Gerald Hocker, Representative Ruth Briggs King, Representative Rich Collins.

October 20, 2019 @ 3:00: (*Rededication*) **Name of marker:** The Lynching of George White.

About the marker: The marker documents the lynching of George White in the Prices Corner area in June 1903. The original dedication was held on June 23, 2019 on the 116th anniversary of the lynching. The marker was proposed by Savannah Shepherd, a high school junior at the Sanford School.

Legislative Sponsor: Senator Darius Brown.

October 31, 2019 @ 12:00: **Name of marker:** Harvey Barn

About the marker: Marker recognizes the Village of Ardentown's Harvey Barn, which was built in the 1890s as part of the Harvey Farm and converted into the Robin Hood Theatre in the 1930s. In 1969, the theater reopened as the Candlelight Theatre and is now a year round non-profit dinner theater.

Legislative Sponsor: Senator Cathy Cloutier

DHC members provided the Delaware Public Archives with accolades regarding their dedication to providing public access to state history through the Historic Marker Program.

10. **Discussion of Grant Application for Warner Mifflin Book:** Following a motion made by Rosario Calvachi-Mateyko and seconded by Janice Durham, DHC members unanimously approved a grant request for \$2,500 for the a book on Warner Mifflin Commission members requested that DHC's logo and citation referencing their financial contribution be included in the publication.
11. **Consideration of Resolution on 400th Anniversary of Africans in North America:** Chairman Carter presented a DRAFT resolution on behalf of the DHC remembering the 400th anniversary of the arrival of enslaved African Americans in English North America. Members did not express opposition to wording but requested stronger language denouncing slavery and renouncing the existence of slavery. Harvey Rubenstein offered to draft comments for the chair to circulate via email and seek approval from DHC members.
12. **Chairman's Report:**
 - Kennard Wiggin's book on the history of the Delaware National Guard. Chairman Carter noted that the make-up and structure of the book was very impressive.
 - Chairman Carter announced the first showing of a CD titled "First State First Step – Delaware on the Moon" will be shown at the Delaware Public Archives on 10/12/19.
 - Chairman Carter announced that plans for the commissioning ceremony for the *USS Delaware* (a new submarine) will take place at the Port of Wilmington on 4/5/2020. He also mentioned that the book was near completion. Work which needed to be completed included a chapter on the new submarine, a dust jacket, and an index to the publication.
 - Chairman Carter noted that the Holocaust publication should be completed by mid-2020.
 - Chairman Carter mentioned that the History Book Festival held in Lewes on September 27th was attended by 200 to 300 people.
 - Chairman Carter announced that the Caesar Rodney book would be published in 2020.
 - Chairman Carter noted that the Wilmington Riots publication was nearing completion and that he had to write the introductory remarks.
13. **Other Business:**
 - Members suggested that meetings be held in the Delaware Room at the Delaware Public Archives whenever possible.
 - Rosario Calvachi-Mateyko announced several upcoming Latino community events: 10/7 public conversation identifying needs which need to be addressed in Sussex County will take place at 3:00 p.m. at the Del Tech campus in Georgetown and on 11/6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hotel duPont in Wilmington.
 - MGen. Francis Ianni announced that the Bellanca Museum's design crew produced an official history of airplanes of Delaware and will sell special cancellation stamps on 10/12.

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Next Meeting Reminder:

The next meeting of the Delaware Heritage Commission is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, **December 4, 2019** at 2p.m. at the Delaware Public Archives

Respectfully Submitted,

Madeline E. Dunn

National Register Coordinator

State Historic Preservation Office

10. Chairman's Report:

- Update on the USS Delaware book and presentation to captain and crew of the new

submarine USS Delaware: Chairman Carter announced that the book should be sent to the printers the week of April 5th with an anticipated publication date in late June.

- **Update Oral History of the Wilmington Riots:** Chairman Carter noted that this publication should be finished mid to late summer.
- **Update on Delaware Archives 6:** Chairman Carter mentioned that it will be printed in limited quantities by the Friends of DPA and that extra copies will be printed on an as needed basis.
- **Purchase of corrected historical panels for Women's Monument:** Chairman Carter mentioned that with the assistance of Corey Marshall-Steele, DPA can purchase two corrected panels for \$182.20. Dick Carter made a motion, seconded by Michael DiPaolo, authorizing DHC to spend \$182.20 on these panels. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Madeline E. Dunn

NEXT DHC MEETING: JUNE 5, 2019 AT 2:00 P.M. Delaware Public Archives.